

The McGill Daily

Volume 79, Number 33

Monday, November 13, 1989

Québec sick of foreign students?

by Stephane St-Onge

International students employed at Québec universities won't get a penny in medical care from now on.

As of October 23, international students are ineligible for provincial health insurance from the Régie de l'assurance-maladie du Québec.

Meanwhile, taxes deducted from their paychecks will continue being funnelled into Québec health insurance.

The Medicare cuts will have "serious repercussions" for international students according to the Dean of Students' Office at McGill.

Since 1982, Medicare has covered International students who paid \$50 to obtain a federal work permit valid only for campus jobs.

Cathie Sheeran, administrative officer for the Dean of Students' office, said 800 McGill students are affected by the policy change.

Post-Graduates' Students' Society VP External Eric Darier said one out of five international graduate students works on campus, either as a research or teaching assistant.

"Some students have already been refused coverage, even if they applied before October 23," Sheeran added.

The 2400 unemployed international students at McGill pay a compulsory \$385 health and accident fee to receive Blue Cross insurance. Employed international students will have to pay this fee once their Medicare coverage runs out.

Québec's International students already pay an average of \$2000 tuition—the highest in Canada, according to l'Association des étudiants et étudiantes du Québec (ANEEQ). Tuition fees for Canadians studying in this province are frozen at about \$560, the lowest in the country.

VP Planning and Computers François Travenas is in Québec City negotiating with the provincial government to reverse its decision.

The Dean of Students' Office will mail international students updates on the administration's efforts to lobby the provincial government.

Sheeran said, "when students protest, more action is taken than when the administration protests."

British Columbia's international students won their bid for Medicare coverage last December. The province's health minister had excluded visa and work permit holders from Medicare, as they were not permanent residents.

Three student visa holders had the decision overturned in the BC provincial Court of Appeal.

Continuing Ed purges director

by Heather MacKay and Linda Gyulai

Continuing Education students rejected University-appointed director Peter McNaughton last week after a series of alleged improprieties and a fiscal fracas that threw their student association into chaos.

In the midst of the conflict with the administration, MACES assets have been frozen, their bar has been partially closed and the association has been refused a seat on the Board of Governors.

The executive of the McGill Association of Continuing Education Students (MACES) voted unanimously to divest McNaughton of his directorship. MACES council ratified the decision with a two-thirds majority.

"He was not representative of our interests," said MACES President Jim Osborne.

McNaughton was selected June 19 by a University committee of administration and students. The trouble started when MACES, busy with moving offices and other concerns, requested an extension to McNaughton's probationary period, originally to end in September.

Professor Pamela Stewart, Director of the Centre of Continuing

Education, refused the request, saying it came too late.

"After McNaughton found out the executive asked for a 60-day extension, the atmosphere between the executive and the director came to the point that people couldn't come into work," said MACES VP External Daryl Salama.

Following the executive's request, MACES's BoG bid was turned down and bar activities were restricted.

McNaughton was allegedly seen opening, reading and readdressing outgoing mail in MACES offices by a legally-licensed investigative firm, according to Salama. MACES alleges he removed confidential mail from a Canada Post mailbag. On October 23, he was confronted by the investigators.

"He stormed out of here," said Osborne. McNaughton later returned with security guards to remove his personal effects and surrender his key.

"We were shocked," said Salama. "It's possible he'd been tampering with mail from the first day he arrived."

"This potentially could affect every student association on campus," he added.

McGill Secretary-General David Bourke proceeded to freeze MACES assets unilaterally on grounds of alleged impropriety.

"Financially we're paralysed," Salama said. "We're obstructed from paying our bills."

Outstanding accounts include \$30 000 owed to IKEA, and MACES's newspaper, *Nightshift*, which may have to fold.

MACES claims to have tried to contact the administration, but to no avail. "They have not approached us," Osborne said. "Someone just called the (MACES) secretary for the names and phone numbers of members of our council."

But Bourke said, "We have been in correspondence with them."

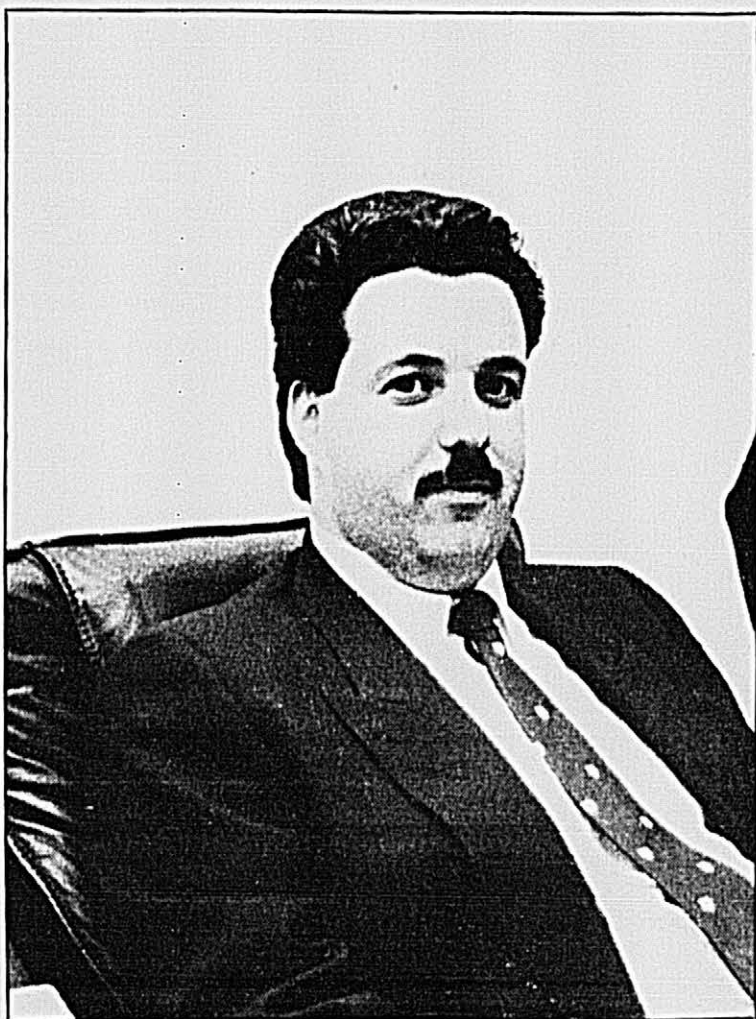
McNaughton has not returned to the MACES office and the executive said it has no phone number to reach him. Yet he remains a paid employee.

"How is McNaughton being paid if our assets are frozen?" asked Salama. "He's paid by McGill but his salary is drawn from MACES accounts," he said.

According to Bourke, "McNaughton's a McGill employee. He's always been paid by McGill."

A University-appointed committee is examining the conflict, according to Osborne. But Osborne and Salama want the committee to include representatives from MACES and from the administration, as well as their legal counsels.

"The lawyers are involved now," said Osborne. "Maybe we can get the University to follow proper decorum."



Daryl Salama, Vice-President External of MACES

AIDS research on trial

by Susana Bejar

The jury has been selected. AIDS researcher and biologist Gaston Naessens is now facing some 80 counts of practicing medicine without a license and one count of criminal negligence in a suit initiated by the Québec Corporation of Medical Professionals.

To practice medicine in Québec, doctors need the official recognition of the Corporation. But this measure, created to prosecute charlatans, has a scope so wide that alternative practitioners get dragged through the courts regularly for unauthorized medical practice.

Naessens' trial focuses on the drug 714-X. He says it has curative effects on cancer and AIDS, and he has some evidence to support that claim.

Dozens of his patients have gathered to form the *Comité de soutien de Gaston Naessens* to fight the charges. They testify to the efficacy of Naessens' treatments, despite the fact that the Corporation actually filed the suit under their names.

Members of the *Comité* and of the Montréal Aids Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT-UP) demonstrated Thursday to demand the charges against Naessens be dropped. They marched to the office of Augustin Roy, the Corporation's director.

Although the original trial date was November 13, it was pushed up to Thursday, seemingly to thwart any chance that post-demonstration publicity would block the trial.

According to ACT-UP member Eric Smith, "The prosecution of Gaston Naessens is indicative of the way the government approaches all issues of treatment. There is a monopoly on pharmaceutical development in the hands of a few recognized researchers whose work gets all the funding but focuses only on a limited approach to epidemiology."

"For example, almost all treatment research for AIDS is focused on AZT or other drugs which conform to the AZT model of nucleotide analogue. Alternate theories such as Naessens's are rejected out of hand as quackery."

ACT-UP demanded that AIDS treatment be a matter of informed choice, that 714-X and ANA-10 (another product developed by Naessens) be tested by Health and Welfare Canada immediately, and that all charges against Naessens be dropped.

According to Director Roy, it is not in the Corporation's mandate to request testing of the product.

But Hugh Ballem of ACT-UP says, "If it's not their job to test, then it is certainly not their job to hinder testing. Someone like Roy who gets up repeatedly at press

conferences and calls Naessens a dangerous quack makes it hard for him to be taken seriously."

According to ACT-UP, people with AIDS have a right to make an informed choice of treatment with their practitioner.

Says Smith, "Many people with AIDS do not have the years it takes for experimental drugs to make it through the trial process. If there is evidence that a course of treatment may have a beneficial effect on their condition, they have the right to take a conscious risk and to demand access to that treatment."

In Canada, physicians may procure experimental drugs if treating patients with terminal conditions, but negative publicity from the Corporation makes most doctors hesitant to do so. Ballem says, "They aren't taking advantage of the Emergency Drug Release Program."

Ballem adds that the criminal charges against Naessens will further inhibit doctors who might otherwise take the initiative to prescribe alternative treatments.

Demonstrators had sent a registered letter to Roy notifying him of the plans for the demonstration, but his office assistants claimed he was out of town for a meeting. The doors were locked and the police were immediately called.

"There's been total silence since continued on page 3

November 16, 1989 5 p.m.
Room B-17, Union Building



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VOTE NO NO NO NO NO

re: Representation on McGill Students' Council

EXERCISE YOUR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

SUPPORT GRAD STUDENTS' DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

The Facts:

- Graduate students have voted to withdraw from Students' Society by 96% majorities twice in the past three years;
- Students' Society has refused to recognize this mandate;
- Students' Society has refused to even negotiate.

The question of graduate student withdrawal and Students' Society right to prevent it unilaterally is currently pending before the University's Senate.

The Referendum:

- Does not even address prior graduate student requests for reform of Students' Society representation;
- Has never been approved nor endorsed by graduate students;
- Is designed specifically to prevent graduate student withdrawal from receiving a fair hearing.

SUPPORT GRAD STUDENTS' DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

re: Representation on McGill Students' Council

The 'No' Committee Endorsed by PGSS

ON NOVEMBER 14 & 15

VOTTE NO

[illegible]



DINO MASTROPAOLO (COURTESY OF THE LINK)

Experts think about Meech Lake and tomb desecration at student-hosted panel on racism

by Aislinn Mosher

Canada is lacking in strong leadership and laws to combat racism, anti-semitism and discrimination, according to Montreal activists.

Students Taking Action to Network Against Discrimination (STAND) hosted a panel discussion last Monday to discuss recent incidences of racism in Canada.

Panelists Pascual Delgado, Director of Ethnic Minority Rights at the YMCA, Jack Jedwab of the Canadian Jewish Congress and Dan Phillips of the Black Coalition of Québec discussed everything from last year's desecration of tombs in a Jewish cemetery to the discriminatory undercurrents of the Meech Lake Accord.

Racist Police

Dan Phillips argued that the legal system is the prime instrument of discrimination in Canada.

"Laws are applied only to poor minorities. The upper echelons of society can get away with what they want," said Phillips.

He cited recent violations of Black citizens' rights by the MUC police force as an example of Canada's discriminatory laws. There are few limits on the use of guns by police officers.

Two years ago an unarmed Black youth was gunned down by an Montreal Urban Community police officer. The officer, Alain Gossett, was recently reinstated into the police force by Québec Superior Court. This move is strongly supported by MUC police officers.

"We need a new code of ethics. The current code of ethics is consistent with the thinking of the Police Brotherhood. But the laws must reflect what the community wants. Laws must defend a community, not a little group."

Phillips stressed the need for interaction between various communities "to make sure individual rights are not encroached and to fight apathy in society. To have rights we must defend each other," Phillips said.

Discrimination of Refugees

Pascual Delgado focused his address on the overall discrimination of Canada's refugee claimants.

According to Delgado, hundreds of refugee claimants are refused emergency medical attention

by Canadian hospitals.

In order to receive free medical service, refugee claimants must first be interviewed by Health and Welfare Canada. If the interview determines that the claimant's illness is legitimate, a permit is granted for free medical care. According to Delgado, Health and Welfare Canada interviews are not conducted by health care professionals but by civil servants.

"At the moment we seem to be saying that only Canadians should have the right to free medical services. There must be a more humanitarian way of dealing with people," said Delgado.

He and the Refugee Committee of Montreal are fighting for a "universal form," allowing all refugee claimants free medical attention.

Delgado also called the Meech Lake Accord a threat to Canada's multiculturalism.

"Canada is Eurocentric. We're focusing on the duality of English and French at the expense of other cultures. My feeling is that signing the Accord will mean the petrification, forever, of the ethnic status-quo," he said.

Delgado said the MLA is solving problems between the French and English, "the real Canadians," and treats ethnic minorities as second class citizens.

Delgado concluded his address with a strong plea for Canadians to "take action."

"We are seeing native peoples being persecuted in Canada and Blacks being harassed and killed. And we see nothing happening. We have to take charge, have a voice, speak loudly. In other parts of the world when people keep quiet, rights are violated," he said.

Sensitizing the Public

Jack Jedwab spoke from an academic perspective.

"Racism is complex and difficult to understand. From an historical standpoint things have improved. Sure there are violent racist incidents that must be dealt with by forceful leadership. It is a myth to say that Canada is a happy mosaic. But it is unduly harsh to suggest that Canada is a racist society," said Jedwab.

To deal with racism, Jedwab recommends programmes be implemented within Canada's Education and Media communities.

Protesting the corporate medical establishment and the toll it has taken on the lives of people living with AIDS.

continued from page 1
against him," says Ballem.

Naessen's laboratory was raided this summer, two days before the Fifth International AIDS Conference in Montréal, and his patient files were confiscated. There have also been reports of the corporation gathering information against Naessens undercover.

"One of the reasons why

then," says Ballem. "They're hiding behind the trial as an excuse not to talk."

There have been outstanding charges against Naessens since 1984, but no action has been taken on them until this year.

"It is only since his success treating patients with 714-X was made public that any action has been taken

Naessen's drug is so explosive is that, with it, a patient can receive full AIDS treatment for the same price as a colour television, and it was produced in a basement laboratory with virtually no funding," says Ballem. "Currently-condoned AIDS treatments cost doctors \$30 000 a year and cost the government \$85 000 for a single patient."

\$900 million for education may be cut in feds' new bill

by Stephane St-Onge

Millions of dollars may be slashed from federal funding to post-secondary education.

Bill C-33 could cut an estimated \$900 million in transfer payments for post-secondary education over the next four years, according to a Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) fact sheet.

Transfer payments are federal grants to provincial governments.

The proposed Bill aims to reduce the growth rate of transfer payments for both education and health services, up to one per cent a year.

The Bill should be decided upon in the new year.

This is not the first time the federal government has cut post-secondary funding. In 1985, Bill C-96 reduced the growth rate by two per cent a year.

These cuts are cumulative. In the next nine years, \$1.74 billion will be axed from transfer payments to Québec.

Post-Graduates' Society VP External Eric Darier said these cuts will "undermine" the \$240 million in federal funds granted to Centres of Excellence, research networks, over the next four years. McGill will administer almost \$20 million of these grants.

Transfer payments for this academic year amounted to \$5.4 million.

Darier added that provincial government proposals to double tuition fees will not redress underfunding problems.

"Students should not commit themselves to paying higher tuitions, as once they start, the sky's the limit," he said. "We would have to quadruple fees just to stand still."

Almost 1000 students braved the rain to demonstrate on Parliament Hill against the cuts last Thursday. Other students picketed the First Minister's Conference held last week.

The cuts were announced as part of Finance Minister Michael Wilson's federal government budget in April 1989.

comment

Students don't need Big Daddies

Although we often blame particular systems or people for the oppression and corruption that riddle societies the world over, there are many innate human qualities that open the door to social injustice.

The most obvious is the lust for power, comfort and cash. The next most nefarious may be the urge to seek affirmation and power from outside authorities, parental figures (like "God") who will come along and make everything right. Though this tendency seems innocent enough, a passing glance at the rise of a dictatorship will reveal what naturally follows.

This spineless quality manifests itself in our approach to the police and government. The past few weeks have provided many examples of similarly irresponsible deference to the administrations of Canada's universities.

Closest to home, there's the Post Graduate Students' Society, who have reacted to twenty years' of dodging and blatant ignorance from the Students' Society by asking the McGill Senate to settle the question of graduate autonomy. The Senate has been procrastinating, largely because arbitrating in student politics is outside their jurisdiction.

And so it should be. Would you want the Senate to decide how SSMU can spend its money, what its position on tuition fees must be or what student groups it will fund?

In Kingston, Queen's University students have been occupying the President's office to demand "punitive action" against the male students whose grossly sexist and offensive 'joke' about the Canadian Federation of Students' anti-date rape campaign has riled the nation this week.

It is great to see students taking direct action against the Administration. But this is not the appropriate issue for which to do it.

Few would deny that signs like

"No Means Dyke" and "No means kick her in the teeth" are intolerable expressions of misogyny, whether or not the fun-lovin' boys shove their tongues as far into their cheeks as into their girlfriends' throats.

The residence council's gender awareness week and radical feminist spray-painting are appropriate expressions of outrage against these men. But it's a cop-out to expect the Administration to act as a court and levy fines or community service against misbehaving students.

Right-thinking folk might think that sexists and anti-democratic bureaucrats deserve a blast from the local Powers That Be. But what about Concordia and University of Toronto students opposing Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip and other Palestinian homelands?

Should the administrations of these institutions be able to abolish student groups such as Arab or Muslim organizations which have compared Israel (not Jews) to South Africa or Nazi Germany? Local Zionist groups have demanded this action be taken.

Though both these analogies are over-zealous and perhaps unfair in their imagery, they are the product of a justifiable sense of oppression. The U of T Muslim students' group showed an anti-Semitic video by accident, not having screened it first. Should they be silenced because they made a mistake?

The truth is that free speech must apply to all if it is to apply to anyone. Writers in Namibia, South Africa, Turkey and Chile depend on that principle to save their lives and perhaps their nations. Our legal system gives that idea token recognition, but students still want Mommy and Daddy to make all those Bad Guys go away, even if the bad guys have the constitutional right to be wrong.

But if Mommy and Daddy themselves turn out to be sexists, racists, or fascists, what will you do? When

it comes to universities, this is more likely than not. Establishment institutions have a vested interest in the status quo. The only real solution is to take matters into your own hands—not violently, but countering one instance of evil speech with a corrective good, as Kingston's feminists have.

Until students and everyone else accept that we can gain freedom only if we stop hungering for absolute security, eager Big Brothers will be handed the truncheons they need to hammer us all into submission.

It is impossible to go around every neighbourhood and exorcise these demons from each individual psyche. So it is incumbent upon us to become well-acquainted with their faces, that we may recognize them when they rear their heads.

carl wilson



hyde park

An elephant and a fly

We are approaching the second anniversary of Palestinian uprising. In the land of Israel/Palestine the "generation of occupation" has rewritten the equations that will describe the dynamics of any future political equilibrium.

Israeli rulers are determined to stand against Palestinian peace overtures. Defense Minister Rabin insists that the uprising will achieve no Palestinian Political purpose. In his own skewed logic, Prime Minister Shamir flatly stated that a test of strength between us and them (the Arabs of Israel) is like a test of strength between an elephant and a fly.

We at the Palestine Solidarity Committee of McGill (PSC) take a different view of the conflict. We believe the time is ripe for a fair and just settlement that will decisively end years of hostilities. The revolt in the territories has enabled the Palestinians to affect change in their desire to achieve sovereignty. But the struggle is far from over, and increasing repression by the Israeli authorities seems inevitable.

The Palestinians and their supporters must work hard to enlist the active support of the Canadian population. The intifada has helped disrupt the political landscape in Canada too. Many Canadian churches have condemned Israel's behaviour and have called for a two-state solution. Many left political organizations, previously paralyzed by pro-zionist members, have spoken out against Israel's brutal measures.

Looking into the future we can only say that the ground has decisively shifted. At the PSC we would like to do all we can to develop an awareness of this critical issue. If you are interested in helping us, please leave your name and number at the Students' Society desk and we will get back to you. On Monday November 13 at 18h30 the PSC is sponsoring *Children of the Intifada*—Artist Heather Spears will present slides of her drawings of Palestinian children wounded in the uprising. Everyone is invited.

Palestinian Solidarity Committee

comment

Reactionary gender benders

Beneath an enormous phallus are the words "Ladies, come see where the men play." This invitation from K.O.X., Montréal's premier leather bar, occurs only once a year.

The ad in this week's *Montréal Mirror* forbids dresses, skirts, high heels and bright colours.

Women are allowed in, but with a strong reminder that cocks rule, whether they belong to gay men or not.

Were this annual fête being staged anywhere but the gay community, women would tear the place down, not line up to get in. Women consider gay men partners in oppression, and their discrimination is not seen as a threat. Yet apparently women pose a threat to gay men.

According to David Shannon of the *Mirror*, club owners argue that allowing women in means they'll soon start bringing their straight male friends, destroying the sanctity of a gay club.

Granted, homosexual men (and women) deserve a sanctuary from the hatred, violence and oppression that confront them. Fair enough. But how threatening are women? The excuse is flimsy at best. Clubs in other North American cities have integrated women without an onslaught of gay-bashing or trendoid take-overs. Most bars remain exclusively gay domains. Montréal's gay community should be secure enough to allow integration.

If a man is truly driven by homophobia, he won't need a woman to point out the best hunting grounds. Straight men already infiltrate gay clubs with the sole purpose of asserting their masculine duty—to beat up homosexuals. The problem isn't women.

Another justification for the segregation is that gay bars are divided according to strict gender codes. Queens belong at drag bars, butch men belong at leather bars. High heels and dresses, on men or women, are out of place at K.O.X.

What is disconcerting about K.O.X. and other bars' No Dames policy is that it homogenizes all women into a strictly gender-defined category, the exact form of control exerted by heterosexual men.

The assertion that women bring boys wherever they go implies that women cannot move independently of men. The stipulation that no high heels are allowed implies a typical feminine dress code. Suddenly, gender stereotyping is coming at us from supposed allies.

How ironic that the gay community, which has challenged gender definitions through camp, leather

and drag, has reduced women into one mass gender. Men are allowed to challenge the rules and explore other conceptions of self, but women aren't.

If clubs are afraid of diluting their leather cult with "femme" presence, then they exclude others like dykes on bikes, leather chicks who fit into the leather butch code.

If a motorcycle mama dons a strap-on, she is participating in the phallus cult these men are supposedly parodying. But she doesn't have the real flesh and blood master of the universe. She doesn't have a cock, so she can't play the game. At least not at K.O.X.

The point is, women have as many options of gender definition as men, yet do not usually exclude men from their community.

There are lesbian bars which discourage men from entering, but gay men are almost always allowed in. Lesbian separatism does exist, but women don't take out full page ads in the press trumpeting the power of their genitals. Women have no power symbols.

Gay men argue women get in the way of cruising. K.O.X. is not just a place for gay men to dance and hang out free from jeers; it is mainly a pick-up joint. Women, it is argued, destroy the mood. Many Montréal clubs let women in on a weekday, but no one, especially not K.O.X., will let them interfere on the weekend. As long as a club stays predominantly male, how can the presence of women hinder a private matter between men? Women don't go to gay clubs to pick up men; they go to avoid being picked up by men.

If women are barred only because they impede serious 'questing,' then why did the Jungle bar women from its recent grand opening featuring Malcolm McLaren and the House of Vogue? Incidentally, they made an exception for a prominent fashion monger.

Male-only clubs featuring male-only entertainment do nothing but parrot the fear and loathing of women in the hetero world.

The misogyny that lurks beneath the clubs' policies has far more dangerous implications than merely denying women access to the latest House hits. Anti-female policy destroys political solidarity between feminists and the gay community. It destroys trust, and reinforces the idea that women have to fight alone. Separatism is a cop-out.

Joyce Lombardi

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Restoring revolution in Nicaragua

Nicaragua recently celebrated the tenth anniversary of its revolution. The country continues in struggle after eight years defending itself against the US-backed contras. The war has cost Nicaragua's economy the equivalent of one year's GNP, and 30 000 have died.

Dorothea Wilson, a member of Nicaragua's national assembly, visited Canada last month to deliver a series of lectures.

During her visit, the Daily spoke with Wilson about the future of Nicaragua, the recent formation of an autonomous region on the Atlantic Coast, and the upcoming elections on February 25, 1990.

BY CHRIS CLARK

Wilson was born on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua. In 1975, she joined the Sandinistas and fought with their Pablo Ubeda Brigade for the remaining four years of the revolution. In 1984 she was elected to the Nicaraguan assembly as the representative of a southern Atlantic coastal region.

Regional tensions have strained relations between Nicaraguans on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. Wilson runs a government bureau in charge of development on the Atlantic coast.

She says the revolution has been successful, citing the government's outstanding health and education records. Infant mortality has dropped in half, the literacy rate more than doubled, and the number of health clinics has risen sixfold since 1979.

Discrimination against the area's population dates back to the arrival of Spanish settlers.

When asked what needs to happen to further improve the nation's situation, Wilson was emphatic: "The Central American peace proposal must be carried out. Nicaragua is complying with the proposal. Peace is necessary to allow the people to return to their homes."

In the upcoming election, Nicaraguans will choose members of the Nicaraguan national assembly. In addition, voters in the Atlantic provinces will elect members of a new Autonomy Council to govern their 'distinct society'.

According to Wilson, who will be running for election to the Autonomy Council, the region was formed because "the people on the Atlantic Coast have had no voice. The new states will be established

to allow these people more participation in Nicaragua."

In the early Eighties, the Reagan administration used the unrest of the indigenous population to justify funding the contras. But in

Ironically, over the last two years, Congress has funded anti-Sandinista political parties to the tune of \$3.5 million through the National Endowment for Democracy.

fact, discrimination and disagreement against the area's population dates back to the arrival of Spanish settlers.

Regional autonomy and national unity

The coast's population is mostly indigenous, while the Pacific Coast is populated largely by Nicaraguans of Hispanic descent. The various ethnic communities of the Atlantic Coast have been fighting against bigotry by the dominant Hispanics.

The Miskitu Indians, who live on both sides of Nicaragua's northern border with Honduras, have had their communities ravaged by the contra war.

In 1985, the Nicaraguan government recognized the distinct cultures and traditions of the Atlantic population and began a process of giving the coast more autonomy.

Many who fled to Honduras as refugees are now returning to rebuild as part of the peace proposal.

Even Miskitus who fought against the Sandinistas in the early 1980s are returning to the area. Indigenous leaders Uriel Vanegas and Armando Rojas have formed the Unity of the Miskitu People, a party that could challenge the Sandinistas in elections to the Autonomous Council.

"Nicaragua will remain unified," says Wilson. "The new (autonomous regions) simply recognize the

diversity within unity, respecting Native customs and language, protecting rights, and ensuring participation."

The Autonomy Council will be a separate government body similar to Canada's provincial assemblies. It provides a means for these communities to protect their rights and lifestyles.

Nicaraguan law gives the region the power to administer its own health, education, and community service programs. The region is also given a voice in the use of regional resources and allowed to promote the various cultures of its different ethnic groups.

"Free and Fair" Elections

The February elections will be the second since the overthrow of the Somoza regime in 1979. A study by the US Library of Congress concluded that Nicaragua's recently reformed election law "reinforces political pluralism and compares favorably to those of other Latin American countries."

The Sandinista government says the new law is proof of its dedication to democracy. It has invited the UN to observe the electoral process, and various countries including Canada are providing technical aid and observers.

The electoral reforms were part of a peace initiative agreed to in 1986 by leaders of Central American countries. The leaders talked about dismantling the contras in exchange for Nicaragua's advance of the election date from November 1990 to February. Nicaragua also agreed to change laws regulating elections and the media.

But the reformed law has stirred up controversy. The United States government claims the law eliminates the possibility of fair elections. US president George Bush called Nicaragua's law "a stacked deck against freedom."

This attitude is puzzling. The reformed law guarantees equal time in state run media for all parties. It allows an estimated 800 000 expatriate Nicaraguans to return home to vote. No other Central American nation allows expatriate voting.

It permits foreign contributions to political parties, although only half of any foreign contribution goes to the party named, while the other half helps pay for the election itself. Even the United States does not allow foreign contributions.

When a similar reform was being

debated in the US Congress, senator Lloyd Bentsen argued that foreign nationals "cannot vote in our elections, so why should we allow them to finance our elections? Their loyalties lie elsewhere."

Ironically, over the last two years, Congress has funded anti-Sandinista political parties to the tune of \$3.5 million through the National Endowment for Democracy.

But Nicaraguans are tired of foreign intervention. A recent paper sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency concluded, "The Nicaraguans are

tired of the war. Their economy is in ruins as is their land. Nobody wants to see their son, their brother or their loved one leaving with a rifle in their hands.

"As a result, for these people the ceasefires of the past few years have been excellent news. But the work is just starting. The process of autonomy is not an end but a beginning."

In response to the renewed mainstream focus on Nicaragua and the upcoming elections, this is the first of three planned Daily features on the land and its people.



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HILLEL HOUSE

6 • The McGill Daily

Monday, November 13, 1989

events

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

Blood Donor Clinic, Sir Mortimer B. Davis, Jewish General Hospital, 3755 Cote Ste. Catherine, Auditorium Pavillion "A", 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Complimentary lunch. Prizes. Info.: 340-8216

"The Question of Grammatical Consciousness-raising in Second Language Pedagogy", with William Rutherford, University of Southern California, Concordia

University, Hall Bldg., 7th Floor, Rm. H762, 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.. Sponsored by The TESL Centre, Concordia University, the Department of Second Languages & the Department of Linguistics, McGill University. McGill Pro-Choice Network is building now and organizing. Meetings every Monday, Women's Union, 5:00 p.m. All welcome. Make the choice, get involved. McGill Debating Union: Meeting, Union 425/26, 6:00 p.m.

Drawn from the Fire-Children of the Intifada. Heather Spears, Canadian Artist and Poet, will give a slide presentation on her drawing of children wounded in the Uprising against Israeli occupation. Sponsored by McGill Palestine Solidarity Committee and Medical Aid for Palestine. Leacock 232, 6:30 p.m. Conference on Women: Cultural, Ethnic, Sexual, and Political Perspectives. First General Meeting, Leacock 212, 7:00 p.m.. History Students Association and McGill Film Society: present the film, *In which we serve*, to honour the 50th anniversary of Remembrance Day of the Second World War. Introduction by Prof. Vogel. FDA Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. FREE.

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On November 14 & 15

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CLASSIFIEDS

Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, room B-17, Union Building, 9h00 - 15h00. Deadline is 14h00 two weekdays prior to date of publication.

McGill students: \$3.50 per day; \$2.50 for 3 consecutive days, \$2.25 for 4 or more consecutive days. McGill Faculty and Staff: \$4.50 per day. All others: \$5.00 per day. There is a 25 word limit. There will be a charge of 25¢ for each word over the limit. Boxed ads are available at \$4.00 per ad per day - no discounts on boxing. EXACT CHANGE ONLY PLEASE.

The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

341 - APTS., ROOMS, HOUSING

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Halifax - plane ticket. Sat. Dec. 16. One-way, non-stop, evening flight. Female. \$90 Call IVO 281-1178.

Vancouver - return plane ticket (male) leaves Nov. 15th or B.O. Call Patrick 284-6151.

372 LOST & FOUND

Pair of glasses lost on campus on Saturday, 4 November. Reward, Cynthia 725-3764 (evenings)

LOST - Navy Blue material Wallet. Important personal documents within. Lost on Campus November 7. Reward if found. 286-1071.

Lost a brown wallet in the Redpath Blackerwood or McLennan library. Reward offered if found. Please call William at 284-5649.

Lost: Fri Nov 3 in Arts W215 at 3 p.m. A pen with a black metallic finish. Sentimental value. Reward. Call Chris 483-4319.

FOUND: "Cross" pen in McLennan library. Call 933-3214.

Found: one plaid scarf in Arts W120 on (Wed) Nov. 8th at 11:00 a.m. Call 393-8050.

374 - PERSONALS

Dawson Hall got you here for Boxing Day? Still don't know the library hours? Give us a call, 6 p.m.-3 a.m. nightly at McGill Nightline, 398-6246. Students talking to students.

Frosty says ...



"A referendum is the only way for everyone to decide. Anyone who claims different is either ignorant, stupid or just lying."

If it's not too far for you to walk to, it's not too far for us! The WALK-SAFE NETWORK: Mont-Royal, Atwater, St-Denis—you name it. Meet at McL Lobby. Mon thru Thurs 10:45 p.m.

AIDS ACTION WEEK is looking for volunteers for everything imaginable. Come help us design posters, tell us which speakers you'd like to hear, paint our banner. If you have a few hours or more now or during the week (November 27 to December 1) contact Jo-Anne at 848-1753 or Jeanne 875-1640 for details.

Psalms 66:2 "Shout with joy to God, all the Earth! Sing the glory of His name, make His praise glorious!" Don't miss our December worship service. Details next week.

Looking for friendly, dynamic AIESECers to join us at the General Meeting, Tues. Nov. 14, 1989 at Bronf. 426, at 4:30 p.m.

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385 NOTICES

Gays and Lesbians of McGill Peer Counselling. Call 398-6822 or drop by union 417, M to F, 7 - 10 p.m.

Congratulations, sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi and Welcome. With Alpha love from the Montreal Alums.

Thursday, November 16 at 8 p.m. — McGill Programming Network challenges anyone with no sense of humour... anyone with a weak kidney... We can make you laugh! A 2-hour comedy show: \$3 (at the door).

Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Alley. McGill Programming Network presents Glenn Ottaway: Comedian-Magician-Freel How can you spend your lunch hour any better?

Photo Society: Some memberships available by lottery; we are also buying back memberships. Info & paperwork Union B-06 or phone 338-6786.

Photographic Contest: Deadline is Friday, March 2, 1990. Open to all students, staff and alumni. Rules, categories and information, Union B-06, 398-6786.

Photo Society members: Scavenger hunt Saturday, 18 November, 10:30 to 4:30; prizes at 7 p.m. Pick up newsletter in office or call 398-6786.

Clifford Lincoln will speak on "Ethics and the Environment", Thursday November 16, 7 p.m., Leacock 232. Sponsored by PGSS and OPIRG.

Ukrainian Students. Organizational meeting for the reformation of the McGill Ukrainian Students' Association. Tuesday, November 14, 1989. Place: Room MS23 McLennan Library; Follow the signs. Time: 7:00 p.m.

389 MUSICIANS WANTED

Musicians, poets, etc. needed to perform at coffee house, November 22. For more information call Edward: 671-8297.

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Beginning Monday, November 6 and continuing through Friday, November 24, 1989, any student wishing to relinquish membership in QPIRG-McGill may come in person to room 505 of the Eaton Building between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Upon signing a statement confirming that all voting and membership rights in QPIRG are relinquished, the student will be sent a refund cheque for the amount of \$3.00. This amount represents the fee for the fall 1989 semester. This portion of the student activity fee would otherwise help fund student research in the public interest.

AVIS

Remboursement de Cotisation

Du lundi le 6 novembre jusqu'au vendredi le 24 novembre tout(e) étudiant(e) voulant cesser d'être membre du GQRIP-McGill pourra se présenter entre 12:00 et 16:00 à la salle 505 de l'édifice Eaton. Veuillez noter que l'étudiant(e) devra signer un formulaire affirmant que tous ses droits de vote et droits de membre du GQRIP-McGill prendront fin, afin de recevoir la somme de 3.00\$. Cette somme de 3.00\$ couvre les frais pour le trimestre d'automne 1989. Cette portion des frais scolaires contribuerait normalement à la recherche sur des sujets d'intérêt public menée par les étudiant(e)s.

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The Daily is a founding member of Canadian University Press, Presse étudiante du Québec, Publi-Paq and CampusPlus.

Editorial Offices

3480 McTavish, room B-03
Montréal, Québec H3A 1X9
telephone (514) 398-6784

co-ordinating editor
Susana Bejar

daily française
Sophie Cousineau
Nicolas Desaulniers-Soucy

news editors
Linda Gyulai

layout and design co-ordinators
Heather MacKay
Eric Léonard

contributors

Elizabeth Wardle
Aislin Moshier
Stephane St. Onge

co-ordinating news editor
—

photo editor
Heidi Hollinger

features editor
Alex Roslin

supplement editor
Egg

science editor
—

Joyce Lombardi
Carl Wilson
Chris Clark
Stompin' Tom Connors

business managers
Brigitte Elie
Marion Schrier
telephone (514) 398-6790

advertising managers
Caroline Elie
Boris Shedov
telephone (514) 398-6791

advertising layout and design
Mike Sportza
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Business and
Advertising Office
3480 McTavish, room B-17
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REFERENDUM POLL LOCATIONS

TUESDAY
Nov 14, 1989

Union
Arts
Leacock
McLennan
Bronfman Cafeteria
Education
McConnell Engineering
Burnside Basement
McIntyre
Bishop Mountain Hall (11h30-13h00,
17h00-19h00)
Redpath Library (10h00-19h00)
Thomson House (12h00-19h00)
Strathcona Anatomy and Dentistry

WEDNESDAY
Nov 15, 1989

Union
Arts
Leacock
McLennan
Bronfman Cafeteria
Education
McConnell Engineering
Burnside Basement
Stewart Biology
(North Wing)
Chancellor Day Hall
Strathcona Music
Rutherford Physics
Thomson House (12h00-16h00)

10h00-16h00 unless otherwise indicated
Valid McGill ID card necessary to vote

Eric Steinman
Chief Returning Officer

Information: 398-6778

Anne Yu
Deputy C.R.O.